The 2016 Liberty Medal was awarded on Monday to U.S. Rep. John Lewis. Lewis, along with his brother, William, first joined in 1951 in a march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. “Bloody Sunday,” was recognized for his courageous dedication to civil rights and the Constitution. The ceremony took place at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, and was the 28th annual ceremony to honor men and women who strive to secure the blessings of liberty for all.

ABC News’ “Nightline” co-anchor Byron Pitts served as moderator for the event, which featured a performance by Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Choir. Other participants included the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Kiminyi, former Gov. Ed Rendell, Cynthia McLeod-Williams of the National Historic Park Superintendente, Sherrilyn Ifill and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educa-
tion Fund and Amy Gutmann, president of the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1988 to honor men and women of service, the Liberty Medal was also awarded to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1990.

PARIS — Colin Powell, the former U.S. secretary of defense, and younger speaker for the March on Washington along with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963, was awarded the 2016 Liberty Medal.

Powell, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and a veteran of the Vietnam War, was presented with the award on Monday by U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), who holds the Lib-
erty Medal at the U.S. Capitol.

“My heart is filled with gratitude for receiving the Liberty Medal,” Powell said in a news release. “It is an honor to receive this award from a true American giant and to have the opportunity to meet and be inspired by his life’s work.”

The ceremony took place at the National Constitution Center’s 28th annual Liberty Medal ceremony, which was taped by WPVI-TV for broadcast on Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 2 at 12:30 p.m.

A prayer is offered at sunset in Cobb’s Creek Park.

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops The United Methodist Church

A statement presented to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference June 2016, Lancaster PA

As we gather for this Jurisdictional Conference many persons have come with overwhelmed hearts and minds, off of the shelves and violence. If I had to choose a word to describe this period it would be “violence.” Violence that has reached a crescendo.

We believe that God’s heart breaks, as our hearts break, with those acts of violence—whether it be race, prejudice and violent crimes. We pray for every family and every community affected by loss and grief and ways to pray for them.

The purposes of these dialogues will be to talk about our own racism and prejudices; to heal the wounds that have been caused by racism, prejudice, and oppression; to train our leadership and churches in intercultural competence; and to lead us to be different in our actions. We will be working for leadership in the church. We will be building bridges across the communities that we have been working for so that all those who we profess to acknowledge as created in the image of God, and as persons of sacred worth, will truly feel loved and included. This is our call.

The NEJ College of Bishops believes that in the midst of the chaos, fear and violence, there is a rich opportunity for the church to bring healing, hope and peace to the world.

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We in the College will hold each other accountable for this action, reporting to our conferences at their annual sessions and providing a report to the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference. At the jurisdictional level we will partner with both the Multi-Ethnic Ministries Commission and the Multi-Ethnic Council of Bishops.

Together, we will need to learn more deeply and work together for our action. For those who cry out for justice, we commit ourselves to seeking justice, supporting faithful law enforcement officers, and empowering the movement of people toward holistic community engagement among the groups.

Because we believe that all persons are created in God’s image, from our United Methodist faith perspective, all people matter, black lives really do matter and the lives of all persons of color really do matter. The lives of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters really do matter. In these particularly violent, life-taking incidents and times, however, we need to intentionally lift up that because we believe that all persons are created in God’s image, from our United Methodist faith perspective, all people matter, black lives really do matter and the lives of all persons of color really do matter. The lives of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters really do matter. In these particularly violent, life-taking incidents and times, however, we need to intentionally lift up that

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